

cache of weapons and explosives, which he allegedly was intending to use in an elaborate mass killing scheme and blowing up of the campus of De Anza College in Silicon Valley. Having spent much time at De Anza College and working with many of its wonderful students, I was shocked to hear of this news.

As a former schoolteacher and principal, I know how hard it is for young people today to deal with the many pressures they face. We don't yet know what this young man's motives were, but this news is a powerful reminder to all of us that we must continue to do better in identifying the warning signs for violence in our schools and work personally with our students, teaching diversity, and tolerance.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, due to a serious family illness that necessitated my presence in my district yesterday and today, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 5 (H.R. 93, the Federal Firefighters Retirement Age Fairness Act)—Yes;

Rollcall No. 6 (H. Con. Res. 14, permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust)—Yes;

Rollcall No. 7 (H. Con. Res. 15, expressing sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck India on January 26, 2001, and support for ongoing aid efforts)—Yes.

Rollcall No. 8 (Approval of the Journal)—Yes.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK GREGORIN

HON. ASA HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to rise to commend the valiant service of a fellow Arkansan, Mr. Frank Gregorin of Sommers, AR. A recounting of his World War II heroics was recently published in the 65th Signal Battalion's July 2000 Newsletter which follows below. I want to again thank Mr. Gregorin for his service to our country during those difficult times and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

[From the 65th Signal Battalion, July 2000 Newsletter]

"March 29, 1945 began as an ordinary World War II day in Europe, but on this day I was scheduled to become a cinder. It was my turn to die unless some friend would help me. The help I would need was nearly impossible to obtain. The friend would have to put his life on the line, place himself in worse danger than I who was about to die. And this was not enough. He would have to have certain skills and be able to summon super-human strength. He would have to disregard enemy rifle fire and work patiently beside gasoline which was about to explode. He would have

to disregard all these dangers and concentrate on a tough and complicated task. I had such a friend and didn't know it.

The day was the one where we departed France and entered Germany. Our convoy of 65th Signal Battalion vehicles moved into Worms, Germany, a large city on the West side of the Rhine River. The city appeared intact, but soon we noticed that those tall buildings had no insides. All roofs had fallen into basements. It was a city of shell buildings.

We arrived at the river and began a drive across it on a two track bridge, one track for each wheel, supported by flimsy pontoons. I was perched on a repair bench inside the shop of a radio-repair truck. Slight waves in the river made the pontoons roll back and forth. Movements of the convoy made it worse. There was concern that trucks would tip over and sink into the river, but all made it across. The convoy began moving deeper into Germany. First roads wound through the Hartz Mountains. Danger seemed past so I made myself comfortable. A repair bench on the away from the cliff became a bed on which I could enjoy forest scenery. It was beautiful. What a pleasant way to fight a war.

Suddenly, the convoy stopped. Looking out the window, forward, men were running away from me. To the rear, men were running away from me. Obviously, I was in some kind of a problem area. A view through the rear window told the story. There was no view, only fire, and no ordinary fire. Yow! Those were violent gasoline flames hitting the window. The entire supply of gasoline on board the trailer of the radio-repair truck was about to explode! The only exit was through the one door, through the flames, to the outside world. All windows had steel screening which could not be removed. A small, six-inch diameter opening in the front of the show was too small to pass me. I wasted precious time, wondering if somehow I could fit through the little hole. No. I must dive through the fire. I opened the door, slightly. A bunsen-burner flame blew into the truck from the top of that tiny opening to bottom. I dared open it no further.

At this point, a voice came to me from outside and beneath the door, "Stay in the truck, Oneby!" Technical Sergeant Frank Gregorin was beneath those wild flames unhitching the trailer. This was no comfort. It takes a wrench to release this type of hitch and at least two men to move the trailer; the book says four. The trailer, besides having a gasoline supply, held the entire weight of a fifteen-kilowatt gasoline-powered electric generator. He had arrived at the hitch too fast to have a wrench. He was trying to unhitch the damn thing barehanded. I'd never seen anyone even try it.

I stared at the six-inch diameter hole in the front of the repair shop. It was still too small for me to squeeze through. Suddenly, success! The flames departed from the rear window Sergeant Gregorin had removed the hitch and was walking the trailer over to the cliff, single-handedly. If one of the wheels had hit a pebble or the trailer became unbalanced in any way, he wouldn't have been able to handle it. I opened the door and prepared to join him in this four-man job. What I saw was frightening. Flames were flowing off the trailer in a vertical sheet. The sheet was inches away behind him. He didn't know of this danger and was looking at me. He yelled, "Stay away from here, Oneby. That's an order!" He was so worried about me, he didn't realize that a slight change in the direction of the wind, and he'd be burned alive. No one could ever continue carrying a heavy trailer with a bunsen-burner flame hitting him.

I closed the door, so he wouldn't look at me, gave him time to look away then opened

it again. Sergeant Gregorin had already thrown the trailer over the cliff and hit the dirt, flat as a pancake. His timing was perfect. The trailer blew up as it left his hand. A mushroom cloud moved up into the sky. I'd never seen one before. Pieces of metal were flying everywhere. I hadn't had time to be scared until then. The realization of the closeness of a nasty way of dying sunk in right there.

Everyone, including me, converged on Greg to see what was left of him. He arose and moved his arms sideways proving to himself and the rest of us that he was completely whole, not a scratch. Unbelievable.

Sergeant Damrow couldn't believe he was unhurt. He asked, incredulously, "Are you sure, you're not hurt?" Then, "You were a damn fool, Greg!" I thought, "Thank God for a damn fool." Something holy and miraculous had occurred. My wonderful sergeant had become a miracle man.

Sergeant Hess, who had been driving behind Sergeant Gregorin, called us to see damage to his vehicle. Snipers had put bullets into his windshield and wipers. Snipers had started the gasoline fire. Snipers had hit vehicles ahead and behind Sergeant Gregorin's vehicle. When Greg began his rescue, the snipers ceased their firing. I like to believe they were in awe of a brave man. Did they watch the scene from the forest above the road?

Greg returned to his vehicle behind the radio truck. I returned to the bench but didn't lie down and enjoy scenery for a whole day. Later, I asked Greg, "Would you like me to report this event, so you receive a medal?" He gave a negative reply. It was war time, and there was little opportunity for writing, immediately.

The war ended, and one day there was a big battalion meeting. Medals were issued with no mention of Greg. I could not imagine a more heroic deed, yet he got nothing. I asked him again, and he stood firm on his previous commitment. Soon he learned the folly of his way. With the medals came points to get the men home, sooner. He lamented secretly to me, "Maybe I should have let you report that event."

A sad day arrived. Greg got kicked up the ladder, transferred to higher headquarters and made into a master sergeant. His heroism and great capabilities seemed to be rewarded slightly. He disappeared from my life for a few months, then returned one day for a visit.

The 65th Signal Battalion was stationed atop a mountain near Stuttgart, Germany. He visited during October 1945. Upon his arrival, his replacement, Sergeant Valentine, called to me, saying, "A friend of yours is here." I was pleasantly surprised to see him in great health and with the smile I always like to see. Sergeant Valentine took our picture together. It was the last I would see of him for many years. We both returned home to busily take up where we left off. We eventually began exchanging letters and again got to visit together. Although not near neighbors, we do live within 800 miles of each other. I count him as my best friend. No one could ever beat him at that.

HONORING NEW MEXICO'S CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Catholic School Week. I

want to take this opportunity to highlight, praise and congratulate our Catholic schools in my home state of New Mexico.

A whole host of events and presentations are planned for this annual observance of the significant role that Catholic elementary and secondary schools play in educating our young people. This is also an occasion to observe the high standard of excellence and the quality of education available in these institutions.

Mr. Speaker, whatever our religious affiliations, we can all admit that for many generations our parochial schools have achieved outstanding results in providing an excellent education. Even non-Catholic parents have turned to the parochial schools to educate their children.

I especially wish to acknowledge Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. His strong leadership is an example to all of us. On Sunday, April 25, 1999, an editorial by Archbishop Sheehan appeared in the *Albuquerque Journal*. As he eloquently stated, "Learning takes place in the home and in the classroom. To improve academic performance, we have to have students who are willing and ready to learn, competent teachers who care about children and who have high expectations of students, and parents and extended families who also care and have high expectations of their children." Indeed, Archbishop Sheehan has captured the essence of education.

I urge all my colleagues to join with me and salute the fine people that make the Catholic schools in New Mexico a reality. It is in the spirit of this wonderful celebration that I wish to recognize and pay tribute to Catholic Schools Week.

RESPONSIBLE DEBT RELIEF AND DEMOCRACY REFORM ACT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Responsible Debt Relief and Democracy Reform Act. This legislation, which I first introduced in the 106th Congress, is intended to provide debt relief to poor countries that have an insurmountable debt burden and to encourage these same countries to implement reforms for sound democracy and the maintenance of a civil society.

Having just returned from a trip to Central Africa where I visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, and Sudan, I am convinced that responsibly provided debt relief to the poorest countries of the world is one of the best ways to help the poor and the suffering.

The countries I recently visited are among the poorest of the world. Life in those countries and throughout Africa is not easy. Death, famine, disease and pain are a constant as millions struggle to survive another day. A recent report by the United Nations says that 180 million people in sub-Saharan Africa are undernourished. Some children go days without a meal. Malnourishment lowers immune systems and horrible diseases take hold.

The AIDS virus is reaching epidemic proportions. Seventy percent of the world's AIDS

cases are in Africa where more than 16,000 people a day are infected. More than 2 million Africans died of AIDS in 2000. There are 16 African countries where more than 10 percent of the adult population is infected with AIDS.

Hunger and disease lead the list as the major crises facing the poorest countries of the world. But there are also other similar characteristics: most of these countries struggle with democracy or with bad governance; they also are caught in a downward spiral of debt, causing difficult and uncertain futures.

Many of the poorest countries must spend an exorbitant amount of their budgets simply to make their debt payments. The rock singer, Bono, a vocal advocate for providing debt relief to heavily indebted poor countries, says, "A country like Niger, with a life expectancy of 47 years, spends more paying off their debts than on health and education combined."

Indeed, a country like Niger is not alone. Debt payments can consume as much as 30–40 percent of a poor country's revenue. The chances of these countries ever paying back their loans is slim to none. Realistically, none of their debt is going to be repaid.

The poor countries of the world have an alarmingly low life expectancy rate, with reports indicating that the average person in Sierra Leone only lives for 27 years. Canceling or reducing the debt of the poorest countries of the world is an opportunity for the U.S. to alleviate the suffering that these people face. Unfortunately, many of these poor countries facing insurmountable debt and needing democratic reform are in Africa.

The new Bush Administration has a unique opportunity to make a difference in Africa. Throughout my trip, the constant refrain I heard was that the United States just needed to show it cared. No one asked for American troops to be deployed. They just want America to send a signal that it will begin to focus on the plight of Africa before another generation of young people is lost to civil war, famine, disease and AIDS.

The U.S. can help provide hope and opportunity for those who may be hopeless. Providing debt relief to the poorest governments of the world, if done in the right way, can free these governments to better address the needs of their own people.

But simply canceling a country's debt doesn't necessarily pave the way to good government. The governments of poor countries are often part of the problem. For a variety of reasons, poorly run governments frequently stand in the way of alleviating poverty or sickness or of providing hope and opportunity to the poorest of the poor.

That is why the legislation I propose today will provide incentives to countries to reform their governments, to institute needed democratic reforms and basic structures of a civil society such as, respect for human rights, promoting religious freedom, freedom of the press, and freedom of association.

The legislation says that debt by the U.S. will be provided to countries that meet the following requirements, as determined by the President of the U.S.:

Freedom of the press.

Freedom of association.

An independent and non-discriminatory judiciary.

Reduction or elimination of corruption relating to public officials, including the promulgation of laws prohibiting bribery of public officials

and disclosure of assets by such officials; the establishment of an independent anti-corruption commission; the establishment of an independent agency to audit financial activities of public officials.

Free and fair elections.

Practice of internationally recognized human rights.

Opposition to international terrorism as determined by the Secretary of State.

The President may waive one or more of these requirements for emergency humanitarian relief purposes, if the President determines and certifies to Congress that it is in the national security interests of the U.S., or if the President determines that a recipient country is making demonstrable progress in the aforementioned areas.

The President is to notify Congress of the justification for the determination of the countries that will receive a cancellation or reduction of debt according to the conditions in this legislation.

Finally, this legislation conveys the sense of Congress that the President should instruct the U.S. director at each international financial institution to which the U.S. is a member to use the voice, vote, and influence of the U.S. to urge the cancellation or reduction of debt owed to the institution by a country only if the country meets the same requirements applicable in this legislation.

We need to help the poorest countries overcome their debt burdens but it must be done responsibly. We must ensure that a dictator's pockets are not lined as a result of debt relief. That is why this legislation sets up a framework to help the poorest nations of the world in their struggle toward democracy, rather than just simply writing off their debt. This legislation says progress in democratic reforms, honoring human rights, and opposition to terrorism are important for developing our poor countries. It says that one of the ways to help the poor is to give them opportunities created by engendering democracy, transparency, and much needed relief from their country's overwhelming debt burden. Lastly it says that if those goals are met, the U.S. will help those countries struggling to help their citizens to a better, more prosperous life.

Mr. Speaker, while this legislation may not be the perfect answer, I am hopeful it will provide the foundation for discussion on how to help the poor and give them opportunities so that the 107th Congress and the Bush Administration can deal with this important issue. I urge my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this bill.

H.R.—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Responsible Debt Relief and Democracy Reform Act".

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CANCELLATION OR REDUCTION OF DEBT OWED TO THE UNITED STATES.

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"PART VI—ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CANCELLATION OR REDUCTION OF DEBT OWED TO THE UNITED STATES

"SEC. 901 CANCELLATION OR REDUCTION OF DEBT.

"Beginning on and after the date of the enactment of this part, the President may cancel or reduce amounts owed to the United